

FROM SOIL TO SIPPING...

# C.K. VINES

In 1987, Bill and Brenda Murphy planted a vineyard in their backyard. What began as a hillside stabilization project for erosion control, turned into a way of life for the Silicon Valley couple. Before they knew it, the Murphys were in the wine business, producing fine bottlings under their Clos LaChance label. With the experience they gained in farming and viticulture the Murphys set up a vineyard company called CK Vines. The goal of the company was to provide sustainable, income-producing, view enhancing landscaping for some of their friends and neighbors.

CK Vines—named after Cheryl and Kristin, the Murphy's two daughters—is a subsidiary of Clos LaChance Wines. The company provides installation and maintenance of small-scale vineyards. Once a vineyard begins to produce adequate fruit, the grapes are purchased from the client for use in Clos LaChance's premium wines. This partnership between CK Vines' clients and Clos LaChance Wines offers numerous benefits to both parties.

Clos LaChance Wines greatly benefits from the CK Vines relationship. It is hard to find large plots of land in the Santa Cruz Mountains suitable for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir vineyards—the mountainous terrain, plus skyrocketing land values in the Silicon Valley, has made the purchase of larger parcels difficult. By establishing these boutique vineyards, Clos LaChance has access to grapes from the unique microclimates and soils of this cool coastal region. CK Vines' viticulturists maintain the vineyards to ensure the quality of the fruit.

CK Vines is not a landscaping company. Premium wine-producing grapevines require special care. Aspects such as pruning and trellising have special techniques that take years to master. Surprisingly, seemingly insignificant alterations in vine maintenance can affect the characteristics of the fruit. Because Clos LaChance Wines purchases the fruit produced by CK Vines' vineyards, the winery is highly motivated to take the best possible care of clients' vines and fruit.

CK Vines has been successful working with over 25 vineyards in the Santa Cruz Mountains region, resulting in happy clients and top quality fruit for Clos LaChance. The first vineyard designate bottling from a CK Vines Vineyard was released in 2005.

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